MAINE PETROLEUM ASSOCIATION

283 WATER STREET AUGUSTA, MAINE 04330

TELEPHONE (207) 622-5881

J. E. McELROY, CHAIRMAN
GETTY OIL COMPANY
BOX A, WEST END STATION
PORTLAND, MAINE 04102

MILTON F. HUNTINGTON
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

February 3, 1976

Mr. Irving Drasnin, Producer
CBS News
A Division of CBS Inc.
35 West 45th Street, 8th Floor
New York, N. Y. 10036

Dear Irv:

If your visit to Maine accomplished nothing more than shocking a sports editor like Bud Leavitt into a relapse of journalistic fair play, it was well worth the trip...even in a hedge-hopping aeroplane.

Actually you accomplished a heck of a lot more. You gave a roomful of businessmen, outdoorsmen and governmental officials a primer on the business of reporting what is news. You made a lot of friends for CBS and journalism in general.

I've heard nothing but raves from my fellow Kiwanians, from the folks in the Sportsmen's Alliance of Maine, from the Fish and Game officials and legislators.

More importantly, as program chairman of Kiwanis, I get credit for getting you here. Irv, it was a delight meeting and talking with you. I hope we get a chance to meet again one of these days.

Sincerely,

Milt

Milton F. Huntington
Program Chairman
Augusta Kiwanis Club

MFH:rb
Enclosures

CBS MEMORANDUM

FROM: Irv Drasnin
TO: RICHARD SALANT
DATE: February 3, 1976

I have been to Maine and while it may not be "ours," I think it was a worthwhile trip.

It did afford an opportunity to communicate directly with some of those persons most skeptical about us. In addition to an unusually heavy attendance of Kiwanians, among those present were: several state wildlife department officials; members of the recently formed Sportsmen's Alliance of Maine; two hunters who appeared in the Echoes broadcast; the chairman of the state legislature's committee on wildlife and fisheries; the managing editor of the Kennebec Journal; and at least one outdoors writer. Several were prepared with written questions, but none were as difficult as those I had anticipated. Many of those present were receptive to my being there, to what I had to say, and took the trouble to say so afterwards -- including several who prefaced their remarks with "I'm a hunter, but..."

In short, I think some bridges were built. In many ways, this post-broadcast experience has been frustrating for me and I feel a little less frustrated after being in Maine. This trip also reinforced a feeling I've had for quite some time: it might be a good idea for documentary producers to spend a week or two between assignments in different locales -- outside the metropolitan centers -- talking to people, reading the local newspapers, circulating, not as speakers but as reporters, on our own. It might both broaden our perspective and also generate some good broadcast ideas -- both subjects and how to do them.

Enclosed is a copy of my remarks and of two pieces which appeared in the Kennebec Journal prior to my arrival. If the Kiwanians send me any post-appearance articles I'll pass them along.

Finally, also enclosed is a memento of "Guns" I've been meaning to send since Christmas. I would complete the caption by saying: "...but not CBS News and its leadership"... and I'm proud of that.

Enclosures

CBS
NEWS
A Division of CBS Inc.
524 West 57 Street
New York, New York 10019
(212) 765-4321

February 11, 1976

Dear Bud:

It was certainly a lot more fun reading the latest column you sent me than the first.

Moreover, I enjoyed meeting you and I appreciated the opportunity for personal contact and discussion with you and the others who attended the Kiwanis luncheon.

While I'm not one to usually quibble, I just thought you should know that it was only a $145 suit (including an extra pair of pants); that "Chinaman" is today considered a pejorative term that I would never use; and that really, I'm only 41 - - racing to the fifties! (It is possible, however, that "the New York experience" does age one prematurely.)

Again, thanks for sending the column and for the copy of the Amory telegram - - and for coming to Augusta. My regards to your daughter, whom it was a pleasure to meet, and my best to you.

Sincerely,

Irv Drasnin
Producer

Mr. Bud Leavitt
Bangor Daily News
491 Main Street
Bangor, Maine 04401

CBS
NEWS
A Division of CBS Inc.
524 West 57 Street
New York, New York 10019
(212) 765-4321

Dear Milt: February 11, 1976

Many thanks for your letter and for the news accounts of our meeting at the Kiwanis Club.

The experience confirmed my belief in the importance of such meetings and the dialogue they generate. Moreover, thanks to you and your fellow Kiwanians, I enjoyed it.

The Kiwanians' gift of the golden rule(r) now adorns my desk, and I will try to follow it. Whether in Maine or Manhattan, I too hope we'll meet again. Meanwhile, my thanks again for your hospitality and to you and your fellow Kiwanians for your graciousness and good-will. My warm regards to you all.

Sincerely,

Irv Drasnin
Producer

Mr. Milt Huntington, Executive Director
Maine Petroleum Association
283 Water Street
Augusta, Maine 04330

CBS MEMORANDUM

FROM: Irv Drasnin
TO: RICHARD SALANT
DATE: February 11, 1976

Enclosed is a copy of a letter from Milt Huntington of the Augusta Kiwanis Club, and some articles he sent me.

While Mr. Leavitt, in his outdoors column, has me saying a lot of things that either I didn't say or said differently, I have corrected him on only three points: it was only a $145 suit, including an extra pair of pants; that "Chinaman" is today considered a pejorative term that I would never (and did not) use; and that I'm but 41 -- racing to the fifties!

The quality of local reporting -- print or television -- continues to be a source of some consternation.

cc: John Sharnick, CND Public Affrs Brdcast
Vice President

Encl.